(f) No, Sir. There is no proposal at present to hand over the DMS to the private sector.

(g) and (h) Do not arise in view of (f) above.

Fish Production

*345. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) production of fish in the country;

(b) what is the percentage of total fish production which is exported;

(c) how the marketing and price fixation takes place in the country;

(d) whether Government propose to provide cooperatives for fishermen to ensure remunerative prices for the fish; and

(e) details of welfare scheme for fishermen so far launched by Government?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM

(a) and (b) The production of fish in the country in 1991-92 is 41.57 lakh tonnes and 7.5 per cent of it was exported.

(c) The fishermen/fish farmers sell fish to contractors or wholesalers or through commission agents to wholesalers or intermediaries or retailers.

The price of fish in the market is determined either through open auction or through bilateral bargaining in the wholesale market and on the basis of demand and supply position in the retail market.

(d) The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) provides financial assistance to the fishermen cooperative societies through the concerned State Governments/UTs for establishment of necessary infrastructural facilities for fish procurement/preservation, processing, transport and marketing to enable the fisheries cooperatives undertake marketing and thereby ensure remunerative prices to the fish producers. A central scheme to provide infrastructural facilities to State Governments for their fisheries corporations, marketing organisations and cooperatives is also being implemented by the Government.

(e) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Welfare of Fishermen:

(i) Active fisnermen, who are members of cooperatives, are insured for Rs. 25,000/- in case of death or permanent disability and for Rs. 12,500/- for partial disability, and the premium is paid by the Government of India and the State Government concerned;

(ii) Civic amenities such as housing, drinking water and construction of community hall for fishermen are provided in the model fishermen villages; and

(iii) Relief during the 4 lean months is provided to marine fishermen @ Rs. 270/- per month. Fishermen contributes Rs. 360/- @ Rs. 45/- per month during the 8 good months and Central and State Governments provide Rs. 360/- each bringing the total collection to Rs. 1080/-.

Use of Low Cost Housing Technology

*346. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government adopted a National Housing Policy, if so, what are the salient features of this Policy;

(b) whether there is any effort to use low cost housing technology and alternate building material for low cost hous-